

BOOK NOTICE

In Days Agone. By W. S. Blatchley, Nature Publishing Co., Indianapolis, 1932. 338 pp., 15 plates.

In this volume Mr. Blatchley has given, in diary form, notes on the flora and fauna of Florida, as he saw it in several journeys from 1911 to 1922. Visitors to Florida will find it interesting in its descriptions of the wilderness of twenty years ago; entomologists will appreciate the detailed accounts of the insects, many of which proved to be new species, which inhabited the then almost inaccessible regions into which Dr. Blatchley penetrated; but, most of all, true naturalists will rejoice in the possession of a book which discloses, between the paragraphs of scientific accuracy, the ardor which drove the author to seek continually new fields of research. Despite the physical fatigue and discomforts entailed by his journeys, despite the neuritis which caused the book to be written by the disabled author "propped up with cushions" (as we learn from a personal letter) he says "I spent many happy days in field and woodland, gathering first-hand knowledge of birds and reptiles, of insects and plants." The book, as a record of those "happy days," will be understandingly read by all who have had similar happy days afield; with admiration also for the author's ability to use his "first-hand knowledge" in the compilation of such useful books as his famous "Beetles of Indiana" his Orthoptera of North-Eastern America," the "Heteroptera or True Bugs of Eastern North America" and the Rhynchophora or Weevils of North America.

In 1931 Dr. Blatchley published "My Nature Nook," being notes on the natural history of the vicinity of Dunedin, Florida, where he has his winter home. "In Day's Agone" he treats of the natural history as observed in the southern part of the state, reserving for a future volume his observations made in Royal Palm Park since 1923. We trust it may be possible for Dr. Blatchley to complete this series of volumes that will no doubt increase in interest with the passing years.—Charles W. Leng and Wm. T. Davis.